

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14-19, 21-27, 29-33, 35-38, 40-42, and 44-46 are pending in the current application, with claims 13, 28, 34, and 39 being cancelled by this Amendment. Claims 1-19 and 21-46 currently stand rejected, and claims 1, 14-16, 19, 23-26, 29, 35, and 37 have been amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections are respectfully requested in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks.

Entry of Amendment Requested

Entry of the preceding amendments after the closing of prosecution in the present application is respectfully requested. Each amendment to the independent claims merely incorporates subject matter already searched and considered in now-cancelled dependent claims. Amendments to dependent claims merely correct dependency of these claims. Thus, the amendments do not require further search or consideration and further place the application in condition for allowance. Entry of the claim amendments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

The Examiner and her supervisor are sincerely thanked for their time and consideration during the personal interview of May 4, 2009. During the interview, the parties discussed the previous rejections to claims 1, 11, and 13. With regard to claim 1, Applicants indicated that the rejection to the claim over Saeki was not understood. The Examiner and her supervisor indicated that

the application of Saeki would meet the recited entry point map in a separate management area if the AV file alone was considered both the recited management area and data area. Applicants appreciate the Examiner and her supervisor explaining this application of Saeki to meet the claim language.

With regard to claim 11, the parties discussed the application of Yamauchi to disclose the recited clip files each having a same number of entry points. The Examiner's supervisor agreed that Yamauchi could not be fairly interpreted to disclose the limitation of claim 11. In light of this agreement, Applicants again present claim 11 and arguments thereto below, and respectfully request that the Examiner either allow the claim or reopen prosecution for further search and consideration of the claim.

With regard to claim 13, the parties indicated that they did not understand the application of Yamauchi to disclose the flags identifying whether jumping to another clip file was permitted. The Examiner clarified the rejection, indicating that FIG. 24C of Yamauchi, with its logic in steps S168 and S151, allowed interpretation of Yamauchi's PGC link information as the recited flags. Applicants indicated that this newly-explained interpretation of Yamauchi would require further consideration. Applicants have amended each independent claim to include the subject matter of claim 13 and offer remarks below as to why Yamauchi, even as explained during the interview, does not teach or suggest the flags identifying whether jumping to another clip file is permitted.

Lastly, Applicants are mindful of the Examiner's reluctance to grant interviews following the closing of prosecution and the time consumed by the interview process. Applicants reiterate their appreciation for the Examiner's time and consideration in granting this interview. Applicant further point out that several aspects of the Examiner's rejections in the Final Office Action were not properly understood until discussing them during the interview. In this way, the interview after final was most helpful in permitting Applicants to respond to the outstanding rejections and advance prosecution in connection with this application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 9-19, and 21-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat Pub 2002/0106196 to Yamauchi et al. ("Yamauchi") in view of US Pat Pub 2001/0043790 to Saeki et al. ("Saeki"). Applicants traverse these rejections for the reasons detailed below.

With regard to claim 13 as incorporated into claim 1, which now recites the "entry point map includes at least one flag associated with the at least one entry point, the at least one **flag** identifying **whether jumping to another clip file is permitted** in relation to the at least one entry point," the Examiner alleges that Yamauchi teaches the recited flags with its PGC information processed according to FIG. 24C. Applicants respectfully submit that the block pointers in the PGC information are not a "flag" – the block pointer is a number

that merely indicates which block of a VOB is currently being reproduced. See Yamauchi, FIG. 15, 24C, element S168; ¶ [0276]. The block pointer value alone does not indicate jumping functionality, because the block pointer value must be compared to the final logical block number in the VOB in order to determine jumping functionality.

Applicants further submit that the block pointers **do not indicate whether jumping is permitted**, because jumping will always occur in Yamauchi, even when the final logical block is reached. See Yamauchi, ¶ [0282] (describing jumping outside the block to a different branch is done once the final VOB is reached); FIG. 24C, elements S157-S159. Rather, the block pointers merely indicate **how/where** the inevitable jump is to occur. See Yamauchi, ¶¶ [0276]-[0277]; FIG. 24C, element S165. It is not reasonable to interpret permission to perform a jump as instructions for doing so. Thus, Yamauchi does not teach the flags indicating jump permission as recited in claim 1, which Yamauchi is alone applied for teaching.

With regard to claim 11, the parties during the Examiner Interview agreed that Yamauchi does not disclose “each data unit in a clip file has a **same number of entry points**” as recited in that claim as previously presented, by Yamauchi’s disclosure of VTS internal search pointers, which are a type of PGC link information. Yamauchi nowhere indicates that these search pointers are “entry points” – indeed they appear to be mere **identifiers** of title and title set number. See Yamauchi, ¶ [0188]. Further, Yamauchi indicates that the VTS internal search pointers are user-set, such that different titles

may have **different numbers of search pointers, depending on user discretion**. See Yamauchi, ¶ [0188]. Thus, Yamauchi does not teach the equal entry points among data units as recited in claim 11, which Yamauchi is alone applied for teaching.

Saeki, which is not applied for the entry points or jump flags discussed above, does not cure the differences between Yamauchi and claims 1 and 11. Thus there further differences in content between the applied references and claims 1 and 11, such that these references further do not anticipate or render obvious claims 1 or 11. Claims 29, 32, 34, 39, 43, and 45 are equally allowable over Saeki and Yamauchi because they recite the unique features of claims 1 and/or 11 discussed above. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to these claims as previously presented is respectfully requested.

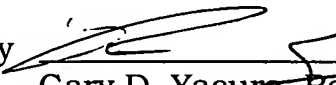
CONCLUSION

For the above stated reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections and favorable allowance of all claims 1-8, 10-18, 23-29, 31-35, 37-39, 41-43, 45, and 46 in the instant application are earnestly solicited. In the event that any matters remain at issue in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



Gary D. Yacura, Reg. No. 35,416
Ryan Alley, Reg. No. 60,977
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

GDY/REA: tlt